

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 322-6333



August 2, 1979

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 1-83-79

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING THROUGH PORTLAND  
UNIVERSITY PERMANENCY PLANNING PROJECT

This letter is to inform you of the availability of technical assistance and training on permanency planning for selected California counties. Portland University has been awarded an HEW grant for implementation of a nationwide, four-year Permanency Planning Project. The Portland Project is currently providing technical assistance and training to forty States. This project is now in its third year and will end October 15, 1980.

Nature of Technical Assistance

Types of technical assistance offered by the Project include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- . providing consultation on implementation strategies and the methodology of permanency planning, through visits to the counties and by ongoing telephone and written communication;
- . organizing national permanency planning conferences, to generate momentum, to promote county-to-county communication, and to address the issues and problems in a national forum; and
- . distributing materials in the counties both as requested and to a mailing list of people in the county identified as having interests in this area.

Portland's Project staff will make at least two site visits to counties selected. Site visits will include project staff preparation of an initial needs assessment report based on information supplied by the county in the Self-Assessment Guide (see Criteria For Participating Counties below). The report will identify barriers to and resources for permanency planning in the county. It will also help the county determine appropriate strategies, workable objectives, and time periods for their efforts. Needs assessment is an ongoing process after

completion of this initial report, to reflect the impact of developments in the county.

In addition, technical assistance offered by the project may also include assistance to county field staff on casework techniques and legal aspects of casework, and consultation in areas of concern to the individual county such as information systems, research design, or development of ongoing training sessions.

Portland's project staff estimates that they will be able to provide these services to approximately six selected California counties.

This project shall be coordinated through this Department. Counties must request to be included in the project as participation is optional. No additional funds will be made available to counties selected for any costs incurred through project participation. However, costs may be charged against participating counties' normal Title XX allocation. Selection process shall be on a first come, first served basis for counties meeting the criteria listed below:

#### Criteria For Participating Counties

All counties receiving technical assistance and training through this project will be required to:

1. Complete and return Portland's check-off type self-assessment questionnaire.
2. Assign a project director in the central administrative unit who will have sufficient time to lead and coordinate permanency planning efforts.
3. Develop a specific plan for project implementation which defines scope of project. (This plan may be in the form of a letter.)
4. Specify commitment of resources to the project, including amount of field staff, support services, program development, case review and monitoring, information systems, cost effectiveness and community awareness and education.
5. Provide DSS with copies of all comprehensive project reports, studies and evaluations completed which may in turn be made available to appropriate sources.

Deadline for entrance into the project is August 30, 1979. The Department of Social Services is enthusiastic about the success of the Portland University Permanency Planning Project and its applicability to California counties. I heartily encourage interested counties to contact Denise Brown at (916) 322-6333 at the above address.

Sincerely,

  
JAMES H. GOMEZ

for Deputy Director

cc: CWDA

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